

## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_

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Introduced by: Becker, Brown C, Budak, Crosby,  
Welch, Hasler

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A HOUSE RESOLUTION to urge the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation requiring the Medicare program to cover all oral anti-cancer drugs.

Whereas, cancer is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the State of Indiana and throughout the Nation;

Whereas, cancer is disproportionately a disease of the elderly, with more than half of all cancer diagnoses occurring in persons age 65 or older, who are thus dependent on the federal Medicare program for provision of cancer care;

Whereas, treatment with anti-cancer drugs is the cornerstone of modern cancer care, elderly cancer patients must have access to potentially life-extending drug therapy, but the Medicare program's coverage of drugs is limited to injectable drugs or oral drugs that have an injectable version;

Whereas, the Nation's investment in biomedical research



has begun to bear fruit with a compelling array of new oral anti-cancer drugs that are less toxic, more effective and more cost-effective than existing therapies, but, because such drugs do not have an injectable equivalent, they are not covered by Medicare;

Whereas, non-coverage of these important new products leaves many Medicare beneficiaries confronting the choice of either substantial out-of-pocket personal costs or selection of more toxic, less effective treatments that are covered by the program;

Whereas, Medicare's failure to cover oral anti-cancer drugs leaves at risk many beneficiaries suffering from blood-related cancers like leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma, as well as cancers of the breast, lung and prostate;

Whereas, certain Members of the United States Congress have recognized the necessity of Medicare coverage for all oral anti-cancer drugs and introduced legislation in the 107th Congress to achieve that result (H.R. 1624; S 913);

Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the  
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Legislature of the State of Indiana respectfully urges the Congress of the United States of America to adopt legislation requiring the Medicare program to cover all oral anti-cancer drugs .

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Members of the United States Congress, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

